GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4683
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2000
PEOPLE BELOW POVERTY LINE
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a manifold increase in the number of families living below poverty line in Bihar, as per the CAG report for 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken for their upliftment during the said period; and

(d) the target fixed and the achievement made by the State thereunder?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) As per the CAG Report for 1998-99, the number of BPL families in Bihar has increased from 65.67 lakh in 1992-93 to 93.99 lakh in1998-99 in terms of absolute numbers. But BPL Census shows that in terms of percentage the number of Below Poverty Line families living in Bihar has gone down from 54.42 % in 1992-93 (8th Plan) to 49.64 % in 1998-99 (9th Plan), which is an achievement.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing a number of Programmes aimed at alleviating poverty in rural areas. The major poverty alleviation programmes during the period were - Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and its allied Programmes [the Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), the Development of Women and Children in Rura Areas (DWCRA), the Supply of Improved Tool kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), the Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY)] as well as the Millio Wells Scheme (MWS), the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY).

(i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was a self- employment programme, which aimed to provide self-employment opportunities to the rural poor by assisting them to acquire income-generating assets through Bank Credit and Government Subsidy. No physical targets were fixed under IRDP. A total of 1708247 families were assisted under the IRDP in Bihar between 1992-99.

(ii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) provides wage employment to the rural poor during the lean period.The EAS was launched during the year 93-94 and it was demand driven in nature upto 31.3.99. No target was fixed upto this period. 1625.43 lakh mandays employment was generated in Bihar during 1993-99.

(iii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was also a Wage Employment Programme at the village level up to 1998-99.The target and achievements in respect of Bihar for JRY for the years 1996-1999 was 1724 lakh mandays and 1583.24 lakh mandays respectively.